

LETTER  
FROM  
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,  
TRANSMITTING

*A communication from the Superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point.*

DECEMBER 9, 1879.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed with accompanying documents.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
December 6, 1879.

The Secretary of War has the honor to transmit to the United States Senate a communication from the superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., dated October 15, 1879, together with an estimate amounting to \$5,185.73, to pay cadets admitted to the Military Academy May 1, 1876, from date of admission to the date from which they received pay.

The letter of the superintendent explains why they were not paid during the period mentioned, and an appropriation of the amount estimated is earnestly recommended.

GEO. W. MCCRARY,  
*Secretary of War.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF WEST POINT,  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,  
West Point, N. Y., October 15, 1879.

SIR: In the year 1876 the candidates for admission to the Military Academy were ordered to report at West Point in the month of April, and passed their examination for admission in the latter part of that month, two months before the usual time. They were immediately placed on duty and under instruction to prepare them for the visit of the corps of cadets to the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia. But these candidates were not formally admitted to the academy until the 14th of June, the date of graduation of the first class of that year. They were thus subjected to all the usual expenses of cadets, without receiving any pay, for a period of six weeks after they had passed their examinations for admission. Some of these cadets made the deficiency good by extra receipts of money from home, while others are still in debt to the treasurer of the academy.

Of the cadets admitted at that time forty-two are now in the corps. Of these, nineteen might lawfully have been admitted on the 1st of May to fill vacancies then existing. The remaining twenty-three could not be admitted till the 14th of June, when their predecessors graduated.

It is respectfully submitted that the nineteen are lawfully entitled to a correction of their record of admission to the 1st of May, when they were *actually* admitted; and that the remaining twenty-three are entitled, *in equity*, to pay for the six weeks preceding their admission, during which time they were on duty.

If these views are approved by the honorable the Secretary of War, I respectfully suggest that Congress be asked to make the necessary appropriation to cover this deficiency in the pay of these cadets.

\* \* \* \* \*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. SCHOFIELD,

Major-General, U. S. A.,

Superintendent Military Academy, Commanding.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL, U. S. A.,

Washington, D. C.

TREASURER'S OFFICE, UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,

West Point, N. Y, November 14, 1879.

*Estimate of the sum required to pay cadets admitted to the Military Academy May 1, 1876, from date of admission to the date from which they have received pay.*

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| For forty-two paid from June 14, 1876 for the period from May 1, 1876 to June 13, 1876, both dates included, being one month and thirteen days, at \$50.79 per month, as then authorized by law .....  | \$3, 057 60 |
| For one paid from June 24, 1876 (under age until that date), for the period from May 1, 1876, to June 24, 1876, both dates included, being one month and twenty-three days, at \$50.79 per month ..... | 89 73       |
| Total for cadets now at the Academy .....  | 3, 147 33   |
| For twenty-eight cadets, not now at the Military Academy (discharged, dead, &c.), for the same period and at the same rate as the forty-two first above mentioned .....                                | 2, 038 40   |
| Grand total .....  | 5, 185 73   |
| Respectfully submitted.  |             |

B. DU BARRY,

Maj. and C. S. and Treas., M. A.